IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **CANCEL** claims 4, 15, and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **AMEND** claims 1-3, 5-14, 17-23, 25, 26, and 29-34 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting an octet slip in an inband signalling block in pulse code modulation, the method comprising:

searching, with a searcher, for a first error bit to identify a first error position starting from an end of a searching block, the searching block comprising a set of bits;

counting, with a counter, a number of bit errors starting from a ~~first~~ position in an adjacent ~~slipped~~ block corresponding to the first error bit position to determine whether there is an octet slip before the first error position, the adjacent ~~slipped~~ block being ~~another~~ a set of bits where each bit is present in an octet which is adjacent to an octet containing ~~shifted relatively to~~ a corresponding bit of the searching block; and

in the event that an octet slip before the first error position is not indicated, searching in the searching block for a second error bit to identify a second error position and detecting, with a detector, octet slip by verifying ~~analyzing the error~~ bits starting from a position in an adjacent block corresponding to the second error bit position.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein when the searching is carried out in a direction from a first bit to a last bit, the searching block is a signalling block, ~~and the slipped block is an adjacent block.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein when the searching is carried out in a direction from a last bit to a first bit, the searching block is an adjacent block with respect to ~~and the slipped block is~~ a signalling block.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein searching and counting bit errors is performed by comparing the searching ~~signalling~~ block and the adjacent block to a sample block.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein the octet slip is ~~detected~~ sought for starting from or after the first error bit position if the number of the bit errors in the ~~slipped~~ adjacent block is more than one.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein the octet slip is detected before the first error bit if the number of error bits starting from the first error bit position is zero or one.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, further comprising searching for ~~a~~ the second error bit position of the searching block starting from a bit after the first error bit position..

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to the claim 8, further comprising detecting if the bits of the adjacent ~~slipped~~ block starting from the second error bit position are verified as being correct.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to the claim 9, further comprising detecting that the octet slip is between the first and second error bit positions ~~and the number of bit errors is one~~ if the bits ~~in the slipped block~~ starting from the second error bit position are correct.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to the claim 9, further comprising determining that the octet slip cannot be detected if ~~the number of bit errors is~~ more than one erroneous bit not attributable to octet slip is found.

12. (Currently Amended) A device for detecting an octet slip in an inband signalling block in pulse code modulation comprising a slip detector, the device comprising:

a searcher configured to search for a first error bit to identify a first error bit position starting from an end of a signalling ~~searching~~ block, the signalling ~~searching~~ block comprising a set of bits;

a counter configured to count a number of bit errors starting from a ~~first~~ position in an adjacent ~~slipped~~ block corresponding to the first error bit position to determine

whether there is an octet slip before the first error position, the adjacent ~~slipped~~ block being another set of bits where each bit is present in an octet which is adjacent to an octet containing ~~shifted relatively to~~ a corresponding bit of the searching block; and

a detector configured to detect the octet slip by ~~analyzing~~ verifying error bits starting from a position in an adjacent block corresponding to a second error bit position of a second error bit in the signalling block in the event that an octet slip before the first error position is not indicated.

13. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 12, wherein if the chosen direction is from a first bit to a last bit the device is configured to set the searching block to correspond to a signalling block. ~~and the slipped block to correspond to an adjacent block.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 12, wherein if the chosen direction is from a last bit to a first bit the device is configured to set the searching block to correspond to an adjacent block with respect ~~and the slipped block to correspond~~ to a signalling block.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the searcher is configured to search bit error by comparing the signalling block and the adjacent block to a sample block.

17. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, wherein the detector is configured to ~~detect~~ seek the octet slip starting from or after the first error bit position, if the number of bit errors in the slipped block is more than one.

18. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~13~~12, wherein the detector is configured to detect the octet slip before the first error bit position if the number of bit errors starting from the first error bit position is zero or one.

19. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 17, wherein searcher is configured to search for ~~a~~ the second error bit position of the searching block starting from a bit after the first error bit position.

20. (Currently Amended) The device according to the claim 19, wherein the detector is configured to detect if bits of the adjacent ~~slipped~~ block starting from the second error bit position are correct.

21. (Currently Amended) The device according to the claim 20, wherein the detector is configured to detect that the octet slip is between the first and second error bit positions ~~and the error count is one~~ if the bits starting from the second error bit are correct.

22. (Currently Amended) The device according to the claim 21, wherein the detector is configured to determine that the octet slip cannot be detected if ~~the number is~~ more than one erroneous bit not attributable to octet slip is found.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for detecting an octet slip in an inband signalling block in pulse code modulation, which system comprises:

a sender terminal configured to transmit a signal;

a receiver terminal;

an in path equipment; and

a slip detector comprising

a searcher configured to search for a first error bit to identify a first error bit position starting from an end of a signalling ~~searching~~ block, the signalling ~~searching~~ block comprising a set of bits,

a counter configured to count a number of bit errors starting from a ~~first~~ position in an adjacent ~~slipped~~ block corresponding to the first error bit position, the adjacent ~~slipped~~ block being another set of bits where each bit is present in an

octet which is adjacent to an octet containing ~~shifted relatively to~~ a corresponding bit of the searching block, and

a detector configured to detect the octet slip by verifying~~analyzing error~~ bits starting from a position in an adjacent block corresponding to a second error bit position of a second error bit in the signalling block in the event that an octet slip before the first error position is not indicated,

wherein the slip detector is configured to detect ~~assumed~~ octet slip of the signal transmitted from the sender terminal through the in path equipment to the receiver terminal, in the event that octet slip has occurred in the signal such that the configuration of the slip detector is capable of detecting it.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 23, wherein if the chosen direction is from a first bit to the last bit the device is configured to set the searching block to correspond to a signalling block. ~~and the slipped block to correspond to an adjacent block.~~

26. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 23, wherein if the chosen direction is from a last bit to a first bit the device is configured to set the searching

block to correspond to an adjacent block with respect ~~and the slipped block to correspond~~ to a signalling block.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 25, wherein the searcher is configured to search bit error by comparing the signalling block and the adjacent block to a sample block.

29. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 25, wherein the detector is arranged to ~~detect~~ seek the octet slip starting from or after the first error bit position, if the number of the bit errors in the slipped block is more than one.

30. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~25~~23, wherein the detector is configured to detect the octet slip before the first error bit position if the number of bit errors starting from the first error bit position is zero or one.

31. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 29, wherein the searcher is configured to search for ~~a~~ the second error bit position of the searching block starting from a bit after the first error bit position.

32. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 31, wherein the detector is configured to detect if the bits of the ~~slipped~~ adjacent block starting from the second error bit position are verified as being correct.

33. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 32, wherein the detector is configured to detect that the octet slip is between the first and second error bit positions ~~and the number of bit errors is one~~ if the bits starting from the second error bit position are correct.

34. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 33, wherein the detector is configured to determine that the octet slip cannot be detected ~~if the number~~ is more than one erroneous bit not attributable to octet slip is found.

35. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 23 wherein the slip detector is configured into the path equipment.

36. (Previously Presented) The system according to the claim 23, wherein the slip detector is configured into the receiver terminal.